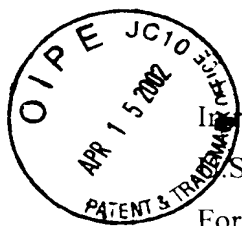


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re:

U.S. Application of:

For:

U.S. Serial No.:

Confirmation No.:

Filed:

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Mitsutoshi NAKAMURA

IMAGE FORMING METHOD

10/081,699

1268

February 22, 2002

2871

To Be Assigned

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

APR 19 2002

RECEIVED

Assistant Director

for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Director for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on

APRIL 8, 2002

Date of Deposit

JAMES W. WILLIAMS

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative

James W. Williams

Signature

APRIL 8, 2002

Date of Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend this Application as follows:

Amendments to the specification are presented herein by presenting replacement paragraphs for the specification, as amended, in clean form. Also, an Appendix entitled "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made," showing the current amendments to the specification is attached hereto.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.